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How to be Lakesmart & Firewise. 2014

Maine Forest Service

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine Bureau of Water Quality

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Firewise Communities USA was developed by the National Fire Protection Association as a resource for agencies & communities wanting to work toward a reduction in lost lives & destruction of property caused

by wildland fire, & to protect natural resources from its effects. With an increasing human population stretching into wildland areas and expanding the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface), the need for education, community wildfire assessments, and wildland fire planning is clear. Any community interested in having an assessment completed or in becoming Firewise.

> should contact the Maine Forest Service below, or visit www.firewise.org for more info.

Maine Forest Service FIREWISE Program 22 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0022 Tel: 207-287-4990 www.maineforestservice.gov



Communities located around lakes have a larger responsibility—to keep the water clean. The Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection's LakeSmart program recognizes property owners around lakes who manage and landscape their

property to protect water quality. Studies have shown that as water quality declines, the value of shorefront property also decreases, resulting in higher taxes for other property owners in the watershed. For more information, visit: http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/watersh.htm and click on LakeSmart.



Dept of Environmental Protection Bureau of Land & Water Quality 17 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0017 Tel: 800-452-1942



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Augusta, ME 04333-002 22 State House Station Maine Forest Service

www.maineforestservice.gov Phone: 207-287-4990 Fax: 207-287-8422

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The State of Maine has more than 6,000 scenic lakes, and over 400,000 residents using lakes as a source of drinking water. The importance of protecting clean waters from nutrient runoff is clear, as well as the importance of protecting the growing number of homes in these shoreland areas from the threat of fire and the potentially devastating effects it has to surrounding waters. By applying both LakeSmart and Firewise principles to your shorefront property, your home, camp, and local waters have a much greater chance of surviving one of the more than 400 forest fires that occur in Maine each year—75% of which threaten, damage, or destroy structures.

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in association with the

Department of **Environmental Protection**

and the cooperative assistance of the University of Nevada Cooperative Ext.

Maine Forest Service





Safer Homes & Healthy Waters





30 FT PERIMETER: Within 5' of your structure(s), create a non-combustible area using inorganic mulch (gravel, rocks, or erosion control mix). Maintain 30' of Lean, Clean & Green defensible space around your structure(s). Regularly rake up & compost or recycle needles & leaves; cover any bare soil with non-flammable mulch. Trim low branches & prune shrubs. Remove dead vegetation within 30' of home. Keep lawn trimmed to 3". Cut branches 10' from house & chimney, & raise branches off the ground by 10 ft or 1/3 tree height—whichever comes first. Make sure softwood tree crowns are a min 14' apart.



ROOF: Keep gutters free of leaves, needles, & debris. Make sure roof is free of fuels. Cover chimney with 1/2" mesh screen. Direct roof runoff to a rain garden or collect & use for watering vegetation.



Make sure this is a min 12' wide, & accessible & supportive of firefighting vehicles.





Crown & stabilize road surface. Create water diversion bars if necessary to control runoff. Plant vegetation downhill of parking area.



STAIRS/OPENINGS: Screen or wall out areas that tend to collect leaves, needles, & burnable materials, or clear them regularly by hand. Compost de-





SEPTIC: Pump septic every 3-5 yrs & keep septic area free of woody growth.



YARD AREA: Keep firewood & compost piles 30' from buildings & fuel tanks.

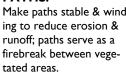




30' - 100' PERIMETER:

Remove or chip fine fuels (smaller than wrist-size). Raise tree branches to 10ft or I/3 height—whichever comes first. If necessary, use inorganic mulch for erosion control.









VEGETATION: (See *Note) Remove, Reduce, Replace. Remove any clusters of highly flammable vegetation (softwoods) that are within 30' of structure(s) & posing significant risk (leaning against home, hanging into home, etc). Reduce vegetation by trimming & pruning; the goal is to minimize the amount of fuels near the structure(s). Replace flammable vegetation with more 'fire-resistant' vegetation & separate groups of smaller plantings/gardens with rocks, etc. For a list of recommended plants, visit: http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/ & click on the Maine Firewise link on the left.



- Think twice about building materials. Choose fire-resistant & non-combustible products whenever possible; avoid wooden roofing (ie cedar shingles).
- Enclose soffits, vents, & eaves with nonflammable materials (1/8" metal screen) to prevent embers from starting fires in or on the home.
- Keep 100' of garden hose attached to the house during fire season (Mar-Nov).

MORE LAKESMART TIPS:

- Stabilize shorefront areas by leaving rocks, shrubs, & trees (trim if within 30' boundary of home). Where necessary, plant grasses or apply non-eroding ground cover.
- Properly dispose of pet waste.
- •Only use pesticides as a LAST resort avoid use for aesthetic purposes.
- Leave native water plants.

*NOTE: Do not clear or thin vegetation within the shoreland zone (within 250 ft of normal high water mark) without adhering to appropriate limitations outlined by DEP, LURC & your local codes.



